

FAQ

1. What is the origin of the Qualification of Language Interpreters?
Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 216A.16, the Iowa Office of Latino Affairs hereby adopts new Chapter 2, “Qualification of Language Interpreters.” This Iowa Code expands current Iowa Office of Latino Affairs responsibilities as related to Spanish language interpreters. The Iowa Code creates a qualification mechanism for Spanish language interpreters working for administrative agencies, health agencies, social service agencies, and the courts.
2. Who can be in the state wide roster of qualified interpreters?
The Iowa Office of Latino shall prepare, maintain, and publish a list of individuals who have been deemed qualified as either general or specialized Spanish/English language interpreters, or both. Interpreters will be deemed qualified at a specific certification level if they pass the criminal background check and meet the minimum requirements regarding age, education, language proficiency, and training and meet other requirements set by the Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs.
NOTE: Persons who provide interpreter services in Iowa may represent themselves as qualified interpreters only if they are currently in the statewide roster of qualified interpreters.
3. What is the connection between the Qualification of Language Interpreters and federal Title VI in Iowa?
The Qualification of Language Interpreters complies with Title VI in that any entity receiving federal funds, including health care organizations which receive Medicaid and State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) funds must provide no-cost language assistance services to patients with limited English proficiency.
4. Is this program a type of license for people who will work as interpreters in the state?
No. ICLA will not grant licenses to do interpretation in the state of Iowa. It will provide a “deem qualify” certificate to those who successfully complete the minimum requirements for a “qualified general” and “qualified specialized” interpreter training program.
5. What are the minimum requirements for a candidate who want to apply for the “qualified general” or “qualified specialized” or both interpreter training programs?
 - a. Have obtained a high school diploma or equivalent;
 - b. Be 18 years of age or older;
 - c. Have no criminal background;
 - d. Have passed the Approved Proficiency Language Test (APLT) in Spanish and in English.NOTE: These requirements apply for both training programs. And those who want to apply for the “qualified specialized” interpreter training program must be an “interpreter in good standing.”
6. Is there a specific level of felony that can be considered an exception?
No.
7. How long does it take to complete the “qualified general” and “qualified specialized” interpreter training programs?
The qualified general interpreter training program is 150 contact-hours and the qualified specialized interpreter training program is 80 contact-hours.

8. What are the categories of the qualified specialized interpreter training program?
 - a). Health;
 - b). Court;
 - c). Social Services.
9. What is the specialized interpretation training for social services about? The specialized interpreter training program for social services has emphasis in education and human services.
10. Would specialized court interpreters (from Iowa Office of Latino Affairs program) be recognized by the Roster of Court Interpreters?
Yes
11. Who will provide the training?
DMACC will provide the training through online courses.
12. What criteria was used to select Approved Training Agencies?
 - Infrastructure capacity;
 - Organizational capacity;
 - Technology;
 - Knowledge and experience in curricula development;
 - Personnel expertise;
 - Other.
13. Who will provide the continuing education?
DMACC will provide the continuing education
14. What is the cost of the interpreter training program?
The cost is approximately \$1,600 (includes tuition, student fee and books.)
15. Are experience-based or out-of-state interpreter credentials transferable to the qualified general or to the qualified specialized interpreter training program?
Yes.
16. What type of disciplinary action will be taken for misconduct of a graduate interpreter of the program?
Removal from the state wide roster.